

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Research  
Service

Animal  
Improvement  
Programs  
Laboratory

Bldg. 263, BARC-East  
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2350  
Phone: (301) 504-8334  
FAX: (301) 504-8092

January 27, 1997

SUBJECT: Electronic Distribution of USDA-DHIA Genetic Evaluations

TO: Executive Secretaries, Breed Associations  
Managers, Dairy Records Processing Centers  
Sire Analysts, Artificial-Insemination Organizations  
State Extension Dairy Specialists Advising on Dairy Cattle Breeding  
and the National Cooperative Dairy Herd Improvement Program  
Coordinator of Genetic Programs, National Association  
of Animal Breeders  
Other Recipients of Format 380, 380S, and 105N

FROM: H. D. Norman, Research Leader, AIPL

*H. Duane Norman*

The Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory (AIPL) wants to continue encouraging organizations to use the Internet for receiving genetic evaluation data, which will result in substantial reductions in costs associated with tapes, and eliminate the inherent problems associated with the shipment of physical media. Because of this, we are expanding the electronic transfer of genetic evaluation files for the February 1997 release by distributing the Top Ten Percent (10%) file and the Elite file (new this run) in format 105N electronically. **Please note that the 10% file will no longer be provided on tape.**

All files listed in the following table will be available to organizations using file transfer protocol (FTP). A password needed to translate those files will be released at 7 a.m. (EST) on Monday, February 10.

The following approach should be followed by those participating. AIPL will post a compressed, encrypted, and password protected file at 2 p.m. on Friday, February 7. FTP this file to your computer system anytime after the posting. The file will be useful to you after it is translated. We will make the file **password** available at 7 a.m. Monday in the /pub directory on AIPL's workstation. You will need this information to decompress and interpret the files. Other dairy industry organizations also have indicated a willingness to serve as additional host sites for the distribution of these files. All these distribution sites have T1 connections (or faster) to the Internet. Having backup sites should guarantee that the information will be transmitted to everyone in a timely manner. File **sites** with the names of these distribution sites, along with the sizes of the files will be placed in the /pub directory on AIPL's workstation by January 31. The file sizes listed should be compared to the size of the file downloaded to ensure that you have achieved a successful transfer.

The compression software which will be used to prepare these files is compatible with recent versions of PKZIP (Phil Katz's ZIP for MSDOS systems). For the July 1996 release, compressed files were UNIX compatible. This caused users on PC based system difficulty due to incompatible end-of-record indication. **Beginning with the February run, files distributed electronically will be converted into a PC compatible format before compression.** File **out380s.zip**, located in the /pub directory on AIPL's workstation, has been converted into a PC compatible format, compressed, encrypted, and password protected. This file can be downloaded to test the compatibility of the decompression software. The eight character password needed to decompress the file is **K@j2&9!**. To ensure data integrity, file **out380s.796** in directory /pub can be downloaded, and compared to the resulting decompressed file. Please note that zip file must be downloaded with the binary option set in the FTP session, and the character file should be transferred using an ASCII transfer. AIPL's URL is <ftp://aipl.arsusda.gov>.

Additional files are being generated to provide user flexibility. We recommend you select the smallest file that will provide all the information you need.

File 380S	Contains all AI bulls that have been used in recent years with $\geq 10$ daughters and likely to have semen available.
-----------	--

File 380AI	Contains all AI bulls.
File 380ALL	Contains all AI and non-AI bulls.
File 380COL	Contains all AI and non-AI bulls for breeds other than Holstein and Red & White.
File 105NEL	Contains elite registered cows, and high ranking grade cows (based on Net Merit \$ percentile)
File 105NTT	Contains the top 10% of the high registered ranking cows (based on Net Merit \$ percentile).
File 2NTT	Contains herd owner name and address records for herds included in the Top 10% file. This file will be given a unique password, which the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association will administer.
File 2NEL	Contains herd owner name and address records for herds included in the elite file. Use password provided in the Password file to uncompress.
File 031HOL	Contains INTERBULL evaluations in format 031 for bulls with Holstein breed of evaluation includes breeds Holstein and Red & White).
File 031COL	Contains INTERBULL evaluations in format 031 for bulls with breed of evaluation other than Holstein

The INTERBULL files will not be password protected and should be available at 8 a.m. on February 11. The following table provides additional information for the file types described above.

File	Format	No. of recs. (Approx.)	Compressed size (Approx.)	Uncompressed size (Approx.)	Compressed file name	Uncompressed file name
380S	380S	4,000	235KB	620KB	380s.zip	380s.myy <sup>1</sup>
380AI	380	41,000	5MB	18.4MB	380ai.zip	380ai.myy <sup>1</sup>
380ALL	380	140,000	16.3MB	60.4MB	380all.zip	380all.myy <sup>1</sup>
380COL	380	27,000	3.2MB	12MB	380col.zip	380col.myy <sup>1</sup>
105NEL	105N	12,000	1.1 MB	4MB	105nel.zip	105nel.myy <sup>1</sup>
105NTT	105N	161,000	15MB	52.3MB	105ntt.zip	105ntt.myy <sup>1</sup>
2NEL	2N	4,500	120KB	675KB	2nel.zip	2nel.myy <sup>1</sup>
2NTT	2N	20,000	530KB	3MB	2ntt.zip	2ntt.myy <sup>1</sup>
031HOL	031	50,000	3.6MB	9.4MB	031hol.zip	031hol.myy
031COL	031	15,000	680KB	1.8MB	031col.zip	031col.myy

<sup>1</sup> myy equals the numeric run month and year, i.e. February 1997 run = 297

Organizations are also encouraged to consider electronic download of organization specific files such as the daughter files for Artificial Insemination Organizations. Please contact AIPL to determine feasibility. Please download files of immediate interest only between 2 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m. Monday. The remaining files will continue to be available at AIPL's site until the next release.

All memos associated with the February 1997 run will be available on AIPL's WEB site URL [HTTP://aipl.arsusda.gov](http://aipl.arsusda.gov). These memos require Adobe Acrobat for viewing. AIPL's WEB site will provide a link to the free Acrobat download site.

AIPL plans to discontinue distributing genetic evaluation data on round reel magnetic tape following the February 1997 run. Use of the Internet for data exchange is a preferred alternative to round reel use. For large files that are not well suited for electronic download, 3480 and 3490 cartridge, 4 mm tape, 8 mm tape, and ISO 9660 standard CD-ROM are available. The recordable CD-ROM's cost about \$8 each. Because these are generally used only once, we will request the users to supply the blank CD's.

If you have concerns, questions, or need additional information, please contact Leigh Walton or myself by phone, or email using [leighw@ggpl.arsusda.gov](mailto:leighw@ggpl.arsusda.gov) or [dnorman@aipl.arsusda.gov](mailto:dnorman@aipl.arsusda.gov).